

Message Text

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SUBJ: AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. CHANCELLOR KREISKY, IN WIDE-RANGING INTERVIEW IN
"ARBEITER ZEITUNG" OF JANUARY 11
COMMENTED ON SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL AND
DOMESTIC TOPICS OF CURRENT MAJOR INTEREST. HIGHLIGHTS
OF INTERVIEW, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND ALSO APPEARED IN FRG
IN "AUGSBURGER ALLGEMEINE," FOLLOW.

2. PLO. KREISKY FORESAW POSSIBLE PLO SHIFT AWAY FROM
TERRORISM IF ITS LEGALITY WERE RECOGNIZED. HE
DENIED THAT GOA HAD TAKEN PART OF PLO AT UN AND THUS HAD
DAMAGED AUSTRIAN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. RATHER,
REFERENCE IN HIS UN SPEECH TO FACT THAT MANY LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS HAD USED PLO'S METHODS MERELY RECOGNIZED
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THAT TERRORISM WAS NOT NEW AND THAT EVEN ZIONIST

LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAD USED IT. HE SAID MANY MOVEMENTS WERE TERRORISTIC WHEN ILLEGAL BUT LOST THEIR BRUTAL CHARACTER WHEN THEY REACHED THEIR GOAL, WHICH WAS WHY HE FAVORED SOLUTION OF PALESTINE PROBLEM.

3. SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. KREISKY INDICATED HE WOULD MAKE THIRD AND FINAL TRIP TO ARAB COUNTRIES ON BEHALF OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL EARLY IN 1976. HE SAID HIS TRIPS HAD PROVED USEFUL IN CREATING NEW ARAB/SOCIALIST RELATIONSHIPS.

4. TREATMENT OF EX-NAZIS. KREISKY REJECTED ALLEGATIONS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL, CHIEF OF JEWISH DOCUMENTATION CENTER, THAT AUSTRIAN COURTS WERE MORE LENIENT WITH FORMER NAZI CRIMINALS THAN OTHERS, E.G. IN FRG, BUT HE NOTED THAT IT WAS "DIFFICULT FOR YOUNGER JURYMEN TO SEE THINGS AS WE WHO EXPERIENCED THEM."

5. EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. REPLYING TO QUESTION ABOUT EUROPEANS' ABILITY TO KEEP BALANCE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, NORTH AND SOUTH, AND COLLISIONS OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS SO AS TO ASSURE EUROPE'S INTELLECTUAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL LEAD IN WORLD, KREISKY DISCLAIMED ANY EUROPEAN LEAD ALTHOUGH EUROPE, HE SAID, HAD CAUGHT UP SOMEWHAT. IN TERMS OF INTEGRATION, HE STATED, IT WAS QUITE THE CONTRARY. UNLESS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THOUGHT LESS IN SELFISH TERMS AND THERE WERE "MORE LAYERS" IN EUROPEAN INTEGRATION SO AS TO PERMIT INTENSIFIED PARTICIPATION BY MORE STATES, EUROPE WOULD REMAIN "VASSAL" OF USA.

6. WEST BERLIN. ASKED WHETHER HE COULD SUPPORT WEST BERLIN BECOMING CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES, IN ADDITION TO VIENNA AND GENEVA, IN ORDER BETTER TO SAFEGUARD ITS STATUS, KREISKY RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD ADVOCATE BERLIN BECOMING ONE OF CAPITALS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS EVEN IF THIS WERE AT OCCASIONAL EXPENSE OF AUSTRIA. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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7. COMMENT: KREISKY INTERVIEW, WHICH DEALT ALMOST SOLELY WITH INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, ACCORDS WITH CHANCELLOR'S STYLE OF PERSONAL HEAVY INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL SCENE, PARTICULARLY ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. INTERVIEW CAN BE READ AS PROBABLE HARBINGER OF INCREASED ACTIVITY BY CHANCELLOR ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS SCENE IN WAKE OF SOCIALIST VICTORY IN RECENT NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND

IN VIEW OF INCREASED ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ON DOMESTIC
SCENE. KREISKY'S PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF AUSTRIAN
WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT UPGRADING OF WEST BERLIN AS
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES,
EVEN TO POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGE OF VIENNA' EFFORTS IN
THIS FIELD, REPRESENTS MOST FORTHCOMING PUBLIC STATEMENT
OF SUPPORT WE HAVE HEARD FROM AUSTRIANS IN LONG TIME
ON STATUS OF BERLIN. CHANCELLOR'S COMMENTARY ON
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION WAS INDICATIVE OF HIS FRUSTRATION
OVER SNAIL'S PACE OF THIS EFFORT AND OF CONTINUING
INTEREST TOPIC COMMANDS AMONG SERIOUS-MINDED PERSONS
CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE WAYS OF REENFORCING AUSTRIA'S
NEUTRALITY.BUCHANAN

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